

RISE OF THE MIDNIGHT SONS

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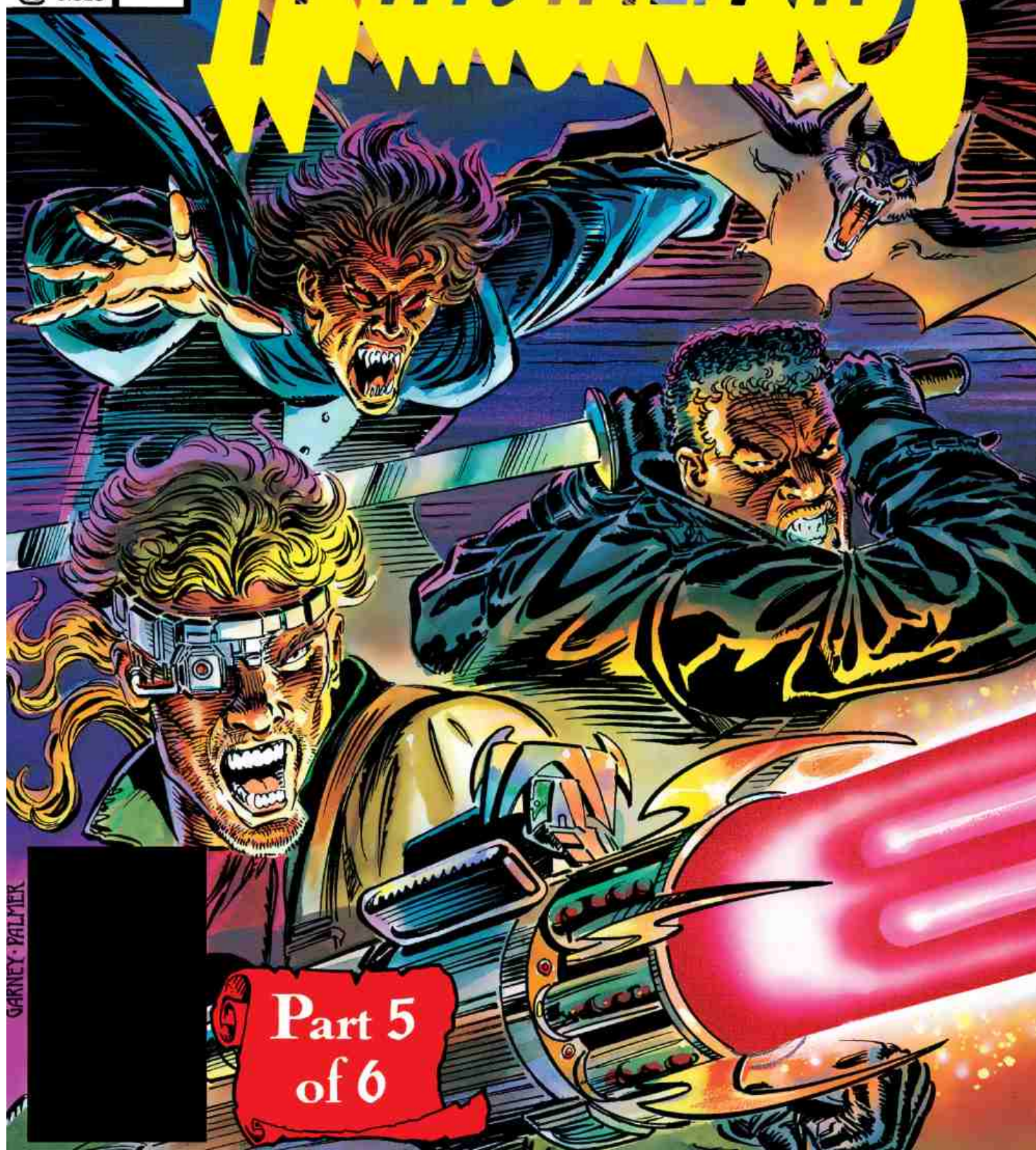
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NIGHTSTALKER



GARNEY PALMER

Part 5
of 6

For eons, the walls between our earth and the supernatural realms have held fast ... until now. Now those walls are weakening, and LILITH, Queen of Evil, Mother of Demons, has risen from her slumber to shatter the walls and free her hellish spawn. Only the strangest of alliances can drive her back ... a union of old enemies and new heroes, in a battle forever to be remembered as the ...

RISE OF THE MIDNIGHT SONS™

NIGHTSTALKERS #1 PART 5

Writer: D.G. CHICHESTER
Penciler: RON GARNEY
Inker: TOM PALMER
Colorist: TOM PALMER
Letterer: JOHN COSTANZA
Editor: BOBBIE CHASE
Editor In Chief: TOM DEFALCO

GHOST RIDER #28 Part 1
SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #1 Part 2
MORBIUS #1 Part 3
DARKHOLD #1 Part 4
GHOST RIDER #31 Part 6

BREAKING THE GRIM STILLNESS OF THE WITCHING HOUR, DESPERATE HEELS CLATTER ACROSS BLACKTOP IN A MAD DASH TO ESCAPE.

CLOSING THEIR PURSUIT, PRIMAL ENGINES ROAR WITH HELLISH FURY.

KRAASH

NO WONDER THEY CALL IT THE DEAD OF NIGHT.

A QUICK AND MERCIFUL END? FOR A LILIN WHO HAS COMMITTED SUCH FOUL DEEDS IN THE NAME OF HER DEMON-QUEEN?

NO, JOHNNY BLAZE...

I STILL SAY WE TOAST HER!

OH MOTHER LILITH, SPARE ME THIS TORMENT... BRING YOUR WRATH DOWN ON THIS HATED GHOST RIDER WHO WOULD DO BOTH ME AND YOU HARM...

...NAKOTA MUST BE MADE TO SEE HOW HER ACTIONS HAVE CAUSED INNOCENTS TO BLEED!

SHE MUST FACE THEIR SUFFERING IN THE PENANCE STARE!

EYE SOCKETS FLARE GOLD-BRIGHT IN THE SKULL, LIGHTING THE WAY TO AN ABYSS OF PURGATORY!

THE LILIN'S OWN ONCE-HUMAN ORBS
RESPOND, SWELLING WITH THE
VISIONARY BOON OF HER SUPER-
NATURAL RE-BIRTH MOTHER --

--SEEING WHAT WAS, WHAT
IS, WHAT WILL BE.

TALK TO ME,
GHOST RIDER-- WHAT'S
IT LOOK LIKE IN THERE?

FRAGMENTS OF THE
VISION ONCE MORE, THE
ONE THAT HAS SET US
ON THIS QUEST!

THE WITCH LILITH
AND HER DEMONIC
CHILDREN--

--CLOSING IN ON
THREE MEN IN THE
CITY OF BOSTON!

INTENSE GUY WITH A
KNIFE, MOODY ONE WITH
SOME FANGS, PLAYBOY
TYPE WITH AN ATTITUDE?

THE SAME, BLAZE...
YET I SENSE SOMEHOW
MORE. WHO ARE THEY?

BLADE, HANNIBAL KING,
FRANK DRAKE-- THEY WERE
VAMPIRE HUNTERS, NOW--

Y-YOU'LL
ALL PAY!

--NOW THEY ARE EITHER ALLIES OR
ENEMIES! THERE CAN BE NO
IN-BETWEEN IN THIS WAR
AGAINST THE SORCERESS!





LILITH WILL FEAST ON YOUR--

THWAK

KCHING

THEY WERE GOOD MEN, RIDER, BACK WHEN--NOTHING TO SAY THAT'S CHANGED, NO WAY OF KNOWING YET JUST WHAT PART THEY PLAY WITH LILITH.

WE SHOULD RIDE UP THERE WITH OPEN MINDS.



WE RIDE AS SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE!

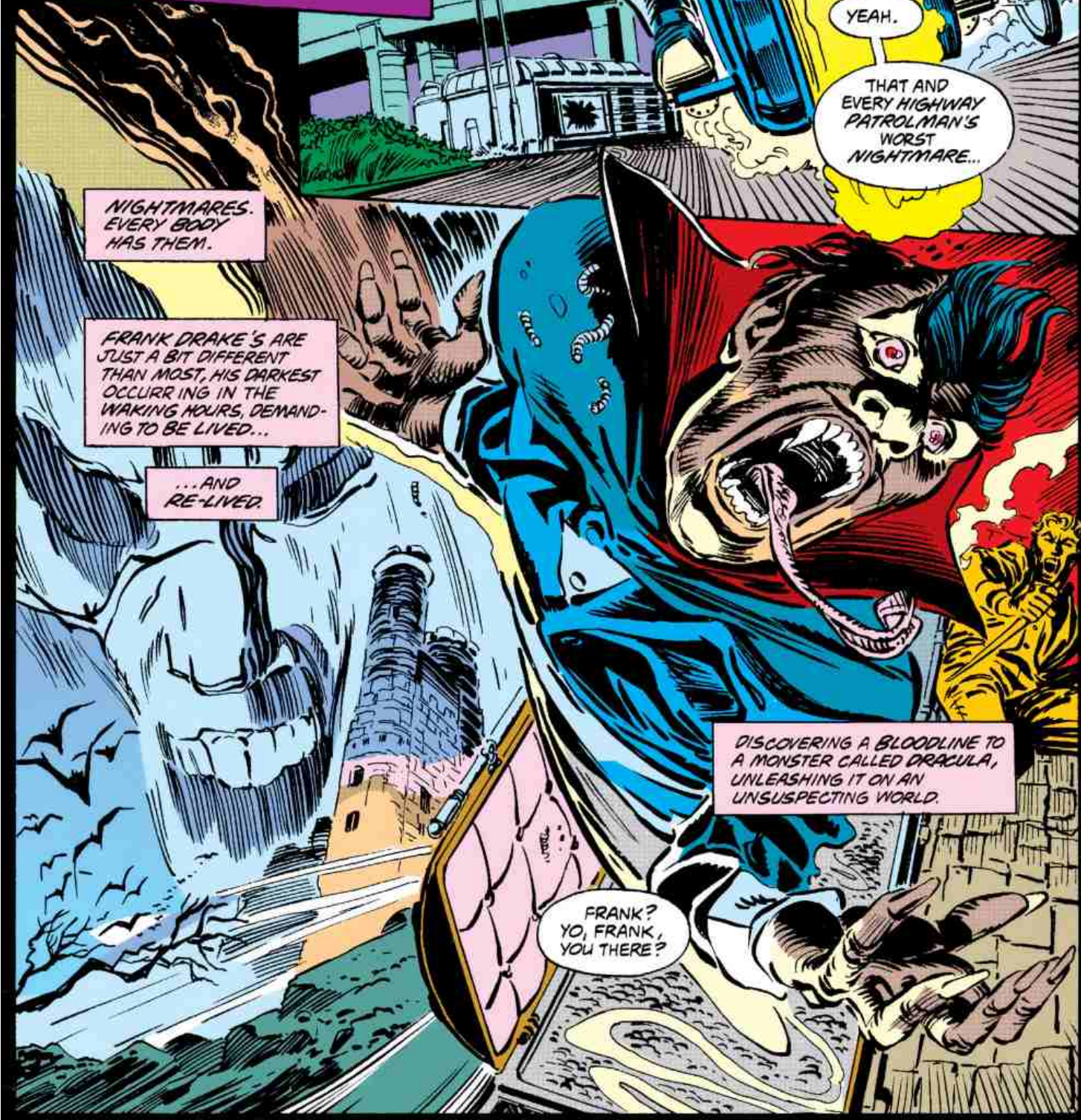
YEAH.

THAT AND EVERY HIGHWAY PATROLMAN'S WORST NIGHTMARE...

NIGHTMARES. EVERY BODY HAS THEM.

FRANK DRAKE'S ARE JUST A BIT DIFFERENT THAN MOST, HIS DARKEST OCCURRING IN THE WAKING HOURS, DEMANDING TO BE LIVED...

...AND RE-LIVED.



DISCOVERING A BLOODLINE TO A MONSTER CALLED DRACULA, UNLEASHING IT ON AN UNSUSPECTING WORLD.

FRANK? YO, FRANK, YOU THERE?



ENDURING THROUGH INFERNAL YEARS TO DESTROY WHAT HE'D ACCIDENTALLY SET LOOSE.

EARTH TO FRANK!

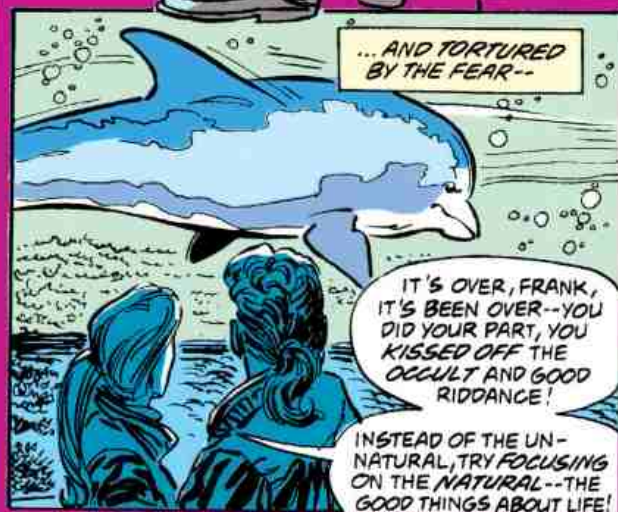
NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM, PRETTY WIFE, DAY OFF TOGETHER TO LOOK AT THE PRETTY FISHIES... ANY OF THIS RINGING ANY BELLS?

SORRY, HON...

SURVIVING ONLY TO STILL BE HAUNTED LONG AFTER BY THE THINGS HE'D BEEN FORCED TO DO, OF WHAT HE'D LET HIMSELF BECOME...

...JUST THINGS ON MY MIND IS ALL, MARLENE.

"THINGS." ONE THING IN PARTICULAR, IF I KNOW YOU!



... AND TORTURED BY THE FEAR--

IT'S OVER, FRANK, IT'S BEEN OVER--YOU DID YOUR PART, YOU KISSED OFF THE OCCULT AND GOOD RIDDANCE!

INSTEAD OF THE UN-NATURAL, TRY FOCUSING ON THE NATURAL--THE GOOD THINGS ABOUT LIFE!



YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE GOOD THINGS, MARLENE, FOR ME-- AND YOU'RE RIGHT!

TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW!

LOOK AT THIS ONE, LOOK HOW GRACEFUL--



-- THE DREADFUL FEAR--

-- SOMETHING'S WRONG--



-- OH MY GOD--



-- THAT IT HADN'T ENDED.

-- GET SOMEONE TO--



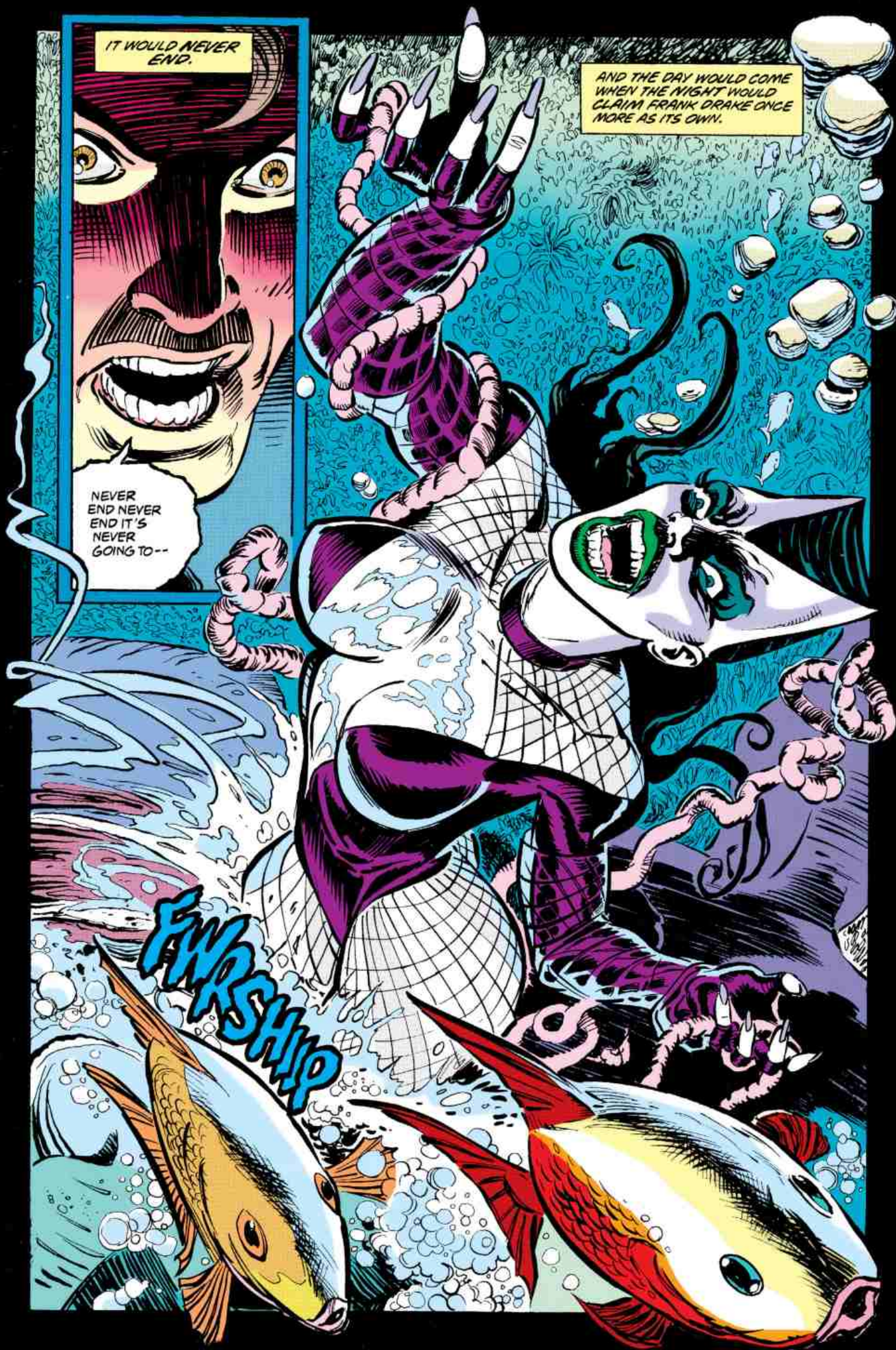
-- INSIDE IT, THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE!

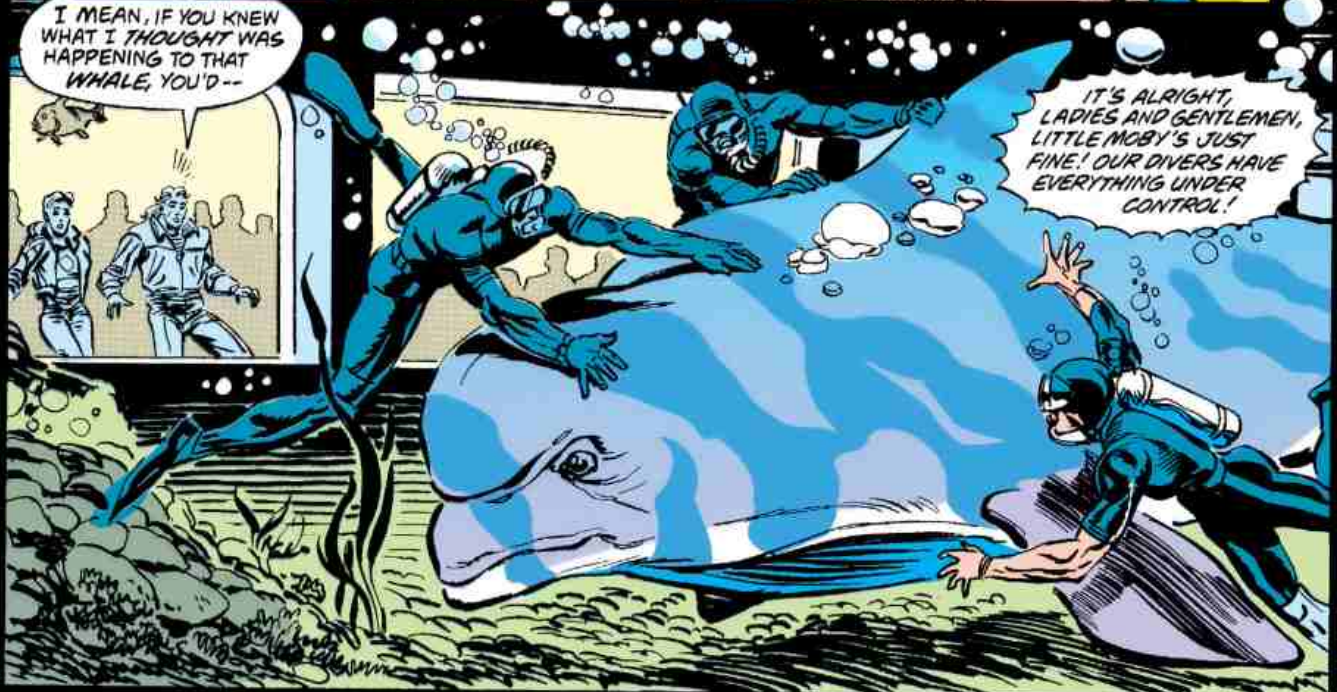
IT WOULD NEVER
END.

NEVER
END NEVER
END IT'S
NEVER
GOING TO--

AND THE DAY WOULD COME
WHEN THE NIGHT WOULD
CLAIM FRANK DRAKE ONCE
MORE AS ITS OWN.

FWRSHIP





TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR?

THE QUESTION HANGS HEAVY IN THE AIR, MORE THAN RHETORICAL, BRIMMING WITH AN ARCAINE POTENTIAL THAT IS THE STOCK IN TRADE OF A WIZARD NAMED STEPHEN STRANGE...

...STANDING A LONELY VIGIL WHOSE CONCERNS EXTEND PAST FRANCIS DRAKE, OR ANY ONE MAN, INSTEAD CONSIDERING THE WELL BEING OF AN ENTIRE DIMENSION.



SATURNINE EYES NARROW, SEARCHING OUT AN ANSWER ON WHAT THE MAGE KNOWS TO BE A RAPIDLY DARKENING HORIZON..

"IT WAS NEAR HALLOWEEN AND WE LET SOME OF THE PATIENTS--"



"IS ANYTHING TRULY INNOCENT, DIRECTOR RITEGRIG?"



"I TAKE IT BLADE WASN'T INTERESTED IN THE FESTIVITIES?"



"--IT WAS MEANT TO BE AN INNOCENT COSTUME PARTY."



"AND JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY-- NEVER MIND, I DON'T WANT TO KNOW!"



"BLADE WAS NEVER INTERESTED IN MUCH OF ANYTHING, EXCEPT..."



"SOMETHING SEEMS TO HAVE CAUGHT HIS EYE, DIRECTOR."



"YES, CANDY CORN FANGS AND A PAPER TABLECLOTH CAPE."



"THAT'S ALL IT TOOK TO WIPE OUT ANY PROGRESS IN HIS TREATMENT AND TRIGGER HIS PHOBIA!"

"IMPRESSIVE... IF IT WASN'T SO ANTI-SOCIAL."

HRSSH

"A DOZEN ORDERLIES WERE NEEDED TO KEEP HIM FROM DRIVING A WOODEN STAKE THROUGH THAT BOY'S HEART."

"BLADE PUT SEVEN OF THEM IN THE HOSPITAL. TWO NEVER CAME BACK OUT..."

"I'M FAST FORWARDING TO ANOTHER SECTION..."

"...WE TRIED DIFFERENT THERAPIES, OF COURSE, BUT NONE HAVE BROKEN HIM OF THE CENTRAL DELUSION--"

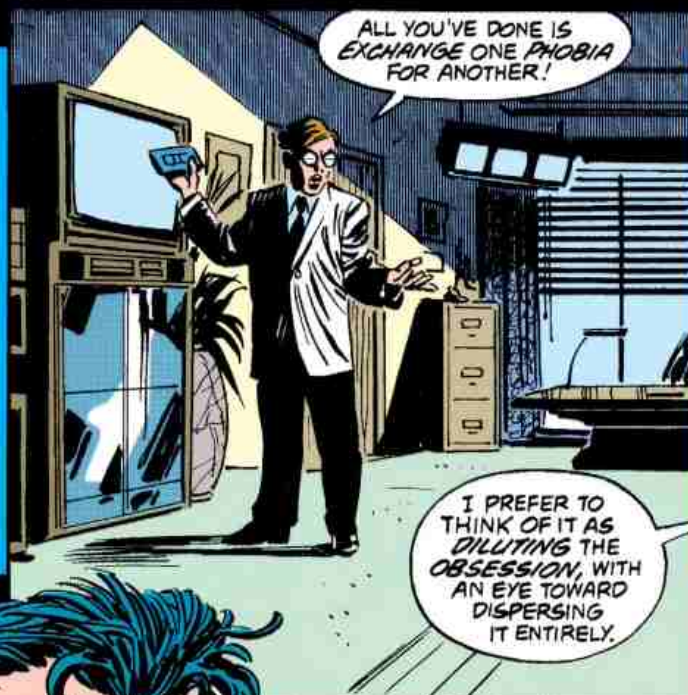


"-- THAT HIS MOTHER WAS KILLED IN CHILDBIRTH BY A VAMPIRE NAMED 'DEACON FROST' AND THAT BLADE HIMSELF WAS TAINTED BY ITS BITE!"



"PRECISELY THE REASON FOR A NEW TREATMENT, DIRECTOR RITEGRIG!"

HRSSH





WHERE'S THE REST?

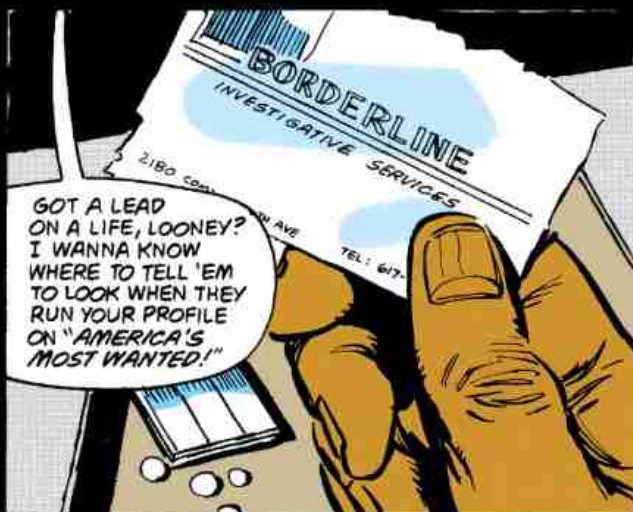


MY GOGGLES, A SET OF TEAK DAGGERS.



YEAH, YOU AND SHARP OBJECTS, BLADE-- THAT'D BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST!

FILE SAYS THAT'S ALL THERE WAS WHEN THEY SLIPPED THE STRAIT-JACKET ON YA, THAT'S ALL YOU'RE WALKIN' AWAY WITH NOW THAT SOME REAL NUT'S LETTIN' YOU OUT!

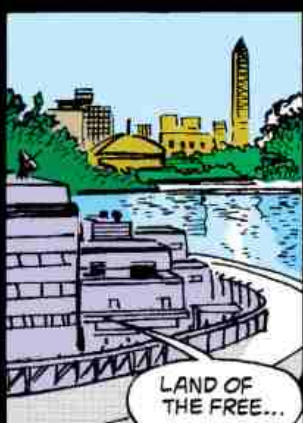


GOT A LEAD ON A LIFE, LOONEY? I WANNA KNOW WHERE TO TELL 'EM TO LOOK WHEN THEY RUN YOUR PROFILE ON "AMERICA'S MOST WANTED!"



HEY, IT'S A JOKE, MAN...

...HA-HA?



LAND OF THE FREE...



...HOME OF THE BRAVE ENOUGH TO FACE ME AGAIN!



THANKS FOR NOTHING, SOCIETY...



WARINESS WILL SERVE YOU WELL ON THIS MOST DANGEROUS PATH, BLADE... AS YOU WILL SERVE A GREATER PURPOSE!

FRZAAAK



BID GOODBYE TO YOUR OLD LIFE.

GOOD LUCK IN SURVIVING YOUR NEW...

ZZRAAKKEE



BRIING
BRIING

YOU'VE REACHED THE
OFFICES OF BORDERLINE
INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES--



-- NO ONE IS HERE TO
TAKE YOUR CALL AS WE'RE
ALL ON ASSIGNMENT, BUT
IF YOU LEAVE A MESSAGE--



YOU'VE CLOSED DOWN
THE OFFICE, HANNIBAL?

FOR NOW...
MAYBE FOR
GOOD.

IT WAS NEVER
EASY RUNNING THE
FIRM MYSELF AFTER
FRANK LEFT AND
THEN BLADE WENT--
YOU KNOW--



-- AND WITH MY CONDITION,
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN
KEEP UP THE DAY-TO-DAY.

BE HONEST WITH YOU,
DOCTOR, I DON'T EVEN KNOW
IF I SHOULD BE TRUSTING
MYSELF DEALING WITH THE
PUBLIC AT ALL!

TELL ME WHEN
YOU FIRST NOTICED
THE SYMPTOMS.



COUPLE
WEEKS
BACK...

"... IT WAS JUST AFTER
LUNCH, ADMIRING SOME
LOCAL, UH, SCENERY,
FEELING GOOD ABOUT THE
CITY.



"RIGHT BEFORE I GOT REMINDED 'GITY' AND 'GOOD' DON'T ALWAYS GO TOGETHER!"



"E.M.S. WAS GREAT, THEY WERE THERE IN NO TIME."



"WITHOUT THEM, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD A CHANCE. WITH 'EM, I HEAR SHE'S LOOKING INTO ROLLERBLADES-- GOOD FOR HER!"



"SHOW WAS OVER, DOC, CROWD STARTED TO GO THEIR WAY--"

"--CEPT FOR ME."



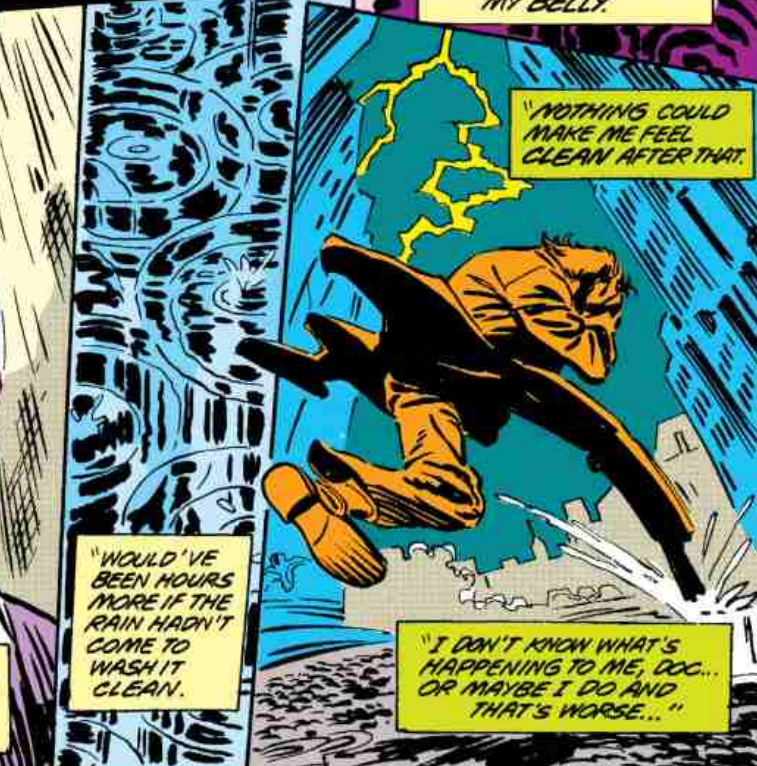
"I COULDN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF IT-- HER BLOOD. STAINING THE STREET."

"I WANTED IT STAINING MY TEETH... FILLING MY BELLY."



"I WANTED DOWN ON MY KNEES, LIPS TO THE ROADSIDE SUCKING ON THAT TAR TO LEECH OUT EVERY DROP OF THAT WARM RED--"

"-- I MUST 'VE STOOD THERE FOR HOURS. LIKE AN ADDICT OR SOMETHING."



"NOTHING COULD MAKE ME FEEL CLEAN AFTER THAT."

"WOULD 'VE BEEN HOURS MORE IF THE RAIN HADN'T COME TO WASH IT CLEAN."

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME, DOC... OR MAYBE I DO AND THAT'S WORSE..."

PERHAPS EVEN MORE SO. CONSIDER--
YOU WERE A VAMPIRE AT THE TIME
THE MONTESI FORMULA WAS SET IN
MOTION TO WIPE OUT ALL
YOUR KIND.

MY SORCERY SPARED
YOU DESTRUCTION DUE
TO YOUR WILLFUL MORALITY
IN CHOOSING NEVER TO
HAVE DRUNK THE BLOOD
OF THE LIVING.

THOSE WERE CHANGES AT
A CELLULAR LEVEL--
VAMPIRIC CELLS THAT
AGAIN HEAR THE CALL OF
THE UNDEAD NOW THAT
THE MONTESI FORMULA
HAS BEEN FORCIBLY
RELAXED!

BUT NOTHING
COULD HAVE BEEN
DONE TO REDRESS
THE PHYSICAL
EFFECTS OF YOUR
INITIAL REVENANT
RESURRECTION AT
THE FANGS OF
DEACON FROST!

BUT...BUT
I'M NOT
NOT "UNDEAD."
YOUR MAGIC
SAW TO
THAT.

NEITHER, HOWEVER, ARE
YOU TECHNICALLY ALIVE.
FROST'S BITE TOOK THAT
FROM YOU FOREVER!
YOU EXIST ALONE NOW,
HANNIBAL, AN ANOMALY
OF NATURE AND THE
UNNATURAL!

A TWISTED
PHYSIOLOGY
GIVING YOU
ACCESS TO VAMPIRIC ABILITIES
EVEN AS YOUR HUMAN SIDE
STRUGGLES WITH THE CRAVINGS
YOU FEEL-- BUT DON'T NEED--
FOR HUMAN BLOOD AND
FLESH!

THIS ISN'T--
THIS ISN'T FAIR! WHAT
DO YOU PLAN TO
DO FOR ME?

WELL, AS
YOU JUST
POINTED OUT,
I CAN'T EVEN
DO THAT...

NOTHING CAN
BE DONE-- THIS IS THE
HAND THE OCCULT HAS DEALT
YOU. I'M... SORRY.

WHAT ARE
YOU SAYING,
STRANGE? "LIVE
WITH IT!"?





G-GET AWAY FROM--

JUSTIN "JUST GONNA MESS YOU UP!" HOYT'S PROWLED THE BOSTON COMMONS FOR YEARS.



-- MESS WITH ME AN' I'M JUST GONNA HAVE TO MESS--

TONIGHT THE TABLES ARE TURNED IN THAT THE MODERN DAY PREDATOR'S SUDDENLY PREY...

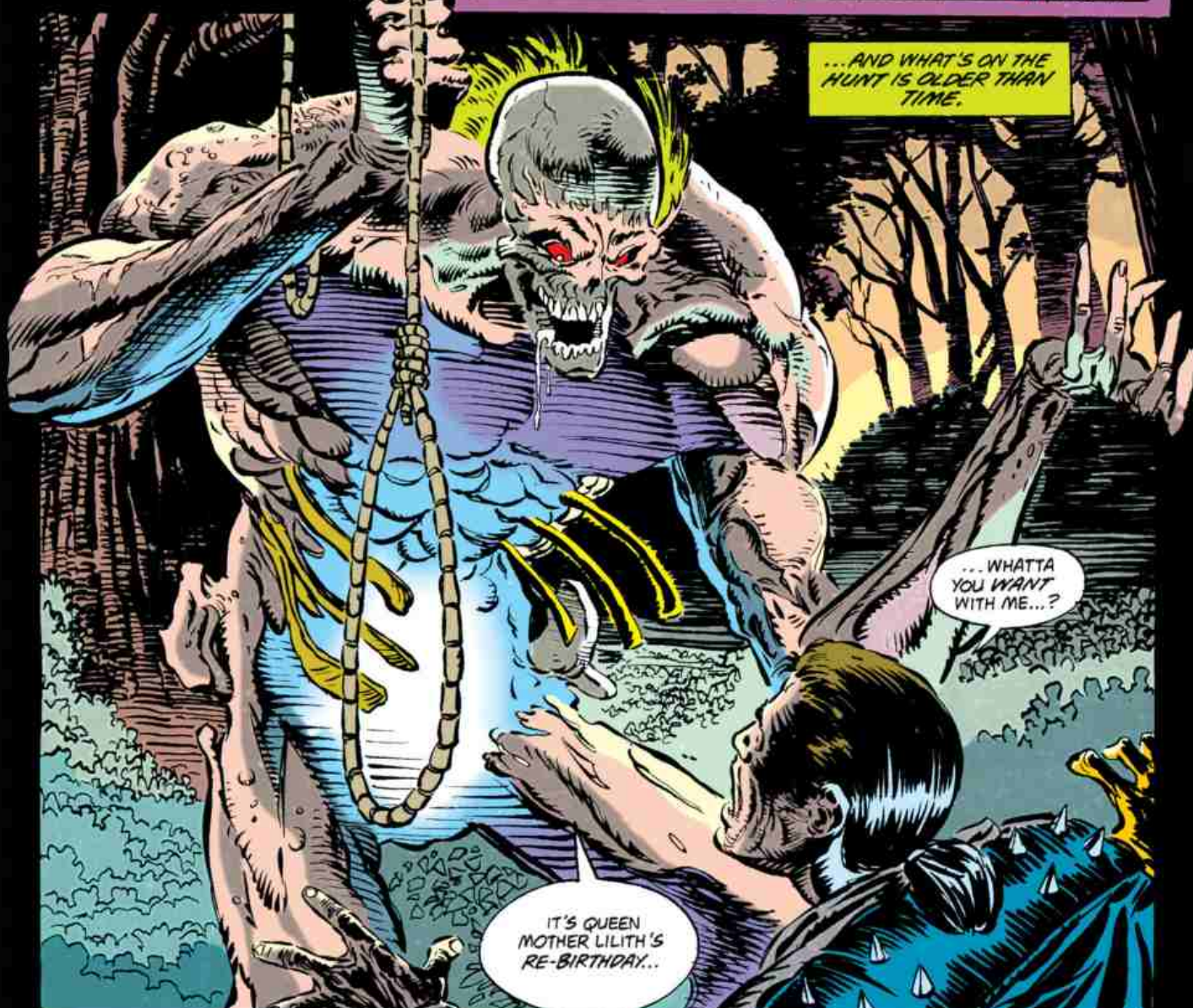


URRK



WHATT A YOU...

THWAT



...AND WHAT'S ON THE HUNT IS OLDER THAN TIME.

... WHATT A YOU WANT WITH ME...?

IT'S QUEEN MOTHER LILITH'S RE-BIRTHDAY...

OH, MEATMARKET...
YOU SHOULDN'T
HAVE!

"WE'RE HAVING A
DANCE IN HER HONOR!"

YOUR RETURN
FROM THE DEAD CALLED
FOR A CELEBRATION,
MOMMA!





DEATH IS ONE THING, MY CHILD. TRAPPED FOR MILLENNIA WITHIN THE ROTTING CARCASS OF THAT LEVIATHAN WAS QUITE ANOTHER.

ALL THE MORE REASON TO ENJOY THE GOOD TIMES NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK!



I MADE THIS SPECIAL--A HIDE HERE, SOMEONE'S SKIN THERE!

ALL NINE OF THE ONES WHO WOULD TORTURE YOU-- GET SOME SATISFACTION BY TEARING THEIR FACES OUT AS YOU DESTROY THEM ONE BY ONE!



IT'S BEAUTIFUL, MY LILIN-- BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO MAIM YOUR CREATION!

NINE IS A MYSTIC NUMBER -- LIKE THE CYCLE OF MONTHS EVOKING A NEW BEGINNING, LIKE THE NINE GRAINS OF SALT WHICH EXORCISE 'EVIL'!



ONLY ONE NEEDS TO FALL TO BREAK THE POWER OF THAT NUMEROLOGY...

...THE "TRAGIC" TRANCE OVERTAKING THE MATE OF THIS FRANK DRAKE AFFORDS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MISUSE HIM AND HIS PARTNERS AGAINST THE GHOST RIDER!

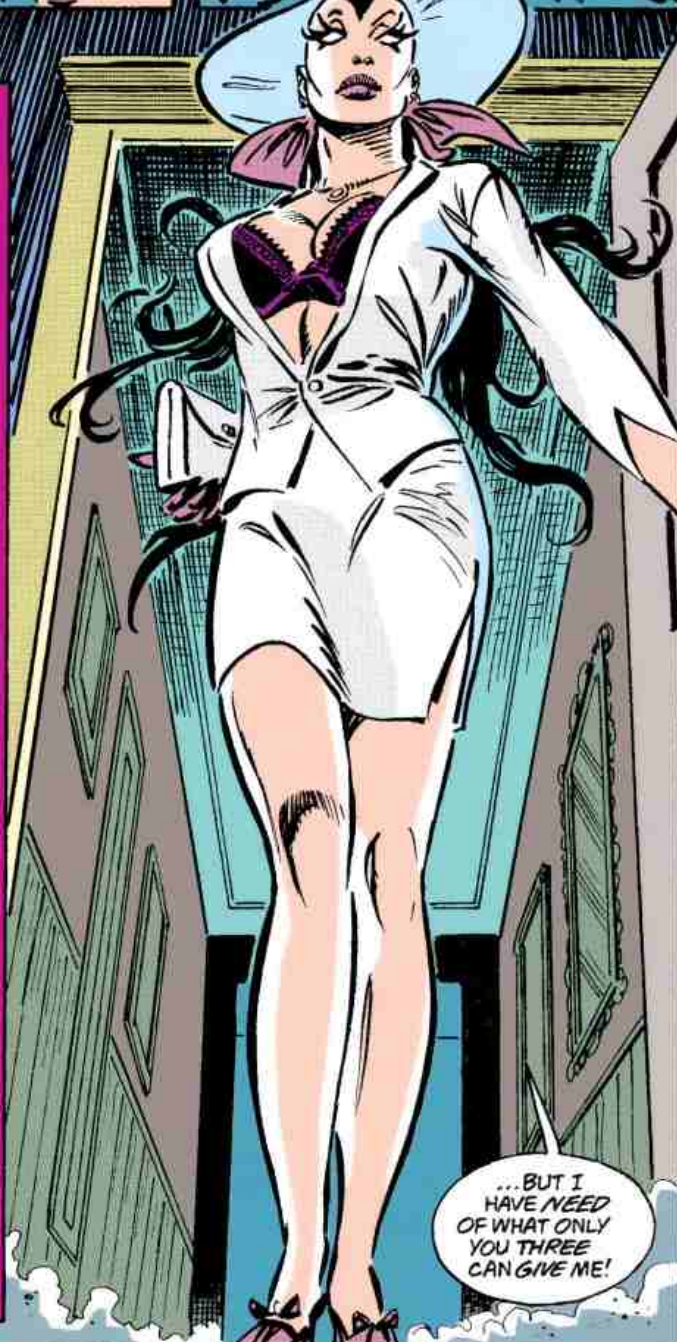


AND WHEN IT'S OVER, DEAR MEATMARKET, WILL YOU BRING YOUR MOTHER HIS COLD SKULL AS A TROPHY?

SUCH AN HONOR, MOMMA! I'M TICKLED PINK...

...OR MAYBE THAT'S JUST EXPOSED MUSCLE TISSUE...





WE SUPPOSED TO TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY, LADY, WHAT WITH YOU FALLING OUTTA YOUR--

I SAID WE'RE CLOSED!

"LISTENING" ALL YOU GOT ON YOUR MIND, FRANKY? WHAT ABOUT THE MISSUS?

I HAD THIS... VISION, SOMETHING, RIGHT BEFORE MARLENE --IN IT WAS THIS WOMAN! MAYBE SHE'S TIED IN. MAYBE SHE CAN HELP!

IT'S MY HUSBAND-- SOMETHING'S WRONG, HE CAN'T MOVE, CAN'T SPEAK!

HOLD UP, BOTH OF YOU-- AT LEAST DO THE COURTESY OF... LISTENING.

MARLENE

THE AUTHORITIES WON'T HELP... BUT THERE'S SO MANY FILMS WHERE PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS ARE WILLING TO GO BEYOND THE LAW... AND BORDERLINE'S REPUTATION IS FOR GETTING THE JOB DONE...

BLOODSUCKER BLOOD IN MY VEINS GIVES ME A NOSE FOR THE DARK SIDE... I DON'T NEED IT TO SMELL THERE'S B.S. HERE!

MAYBE SOME TRUTH, TOO, THOUGH-- WHAT WORKS FOR HER HUSBAND MIGHT WORK FOR MY WIFE.

THIS... UNRESPONSIVE STATE... DO YOU HAVE IDEAS ON HOW TO REVERSE IT?

IT'S UNNATURAL-- SUPERNATURAL! I KNOW HOW THAT SOUNDS, BUT...

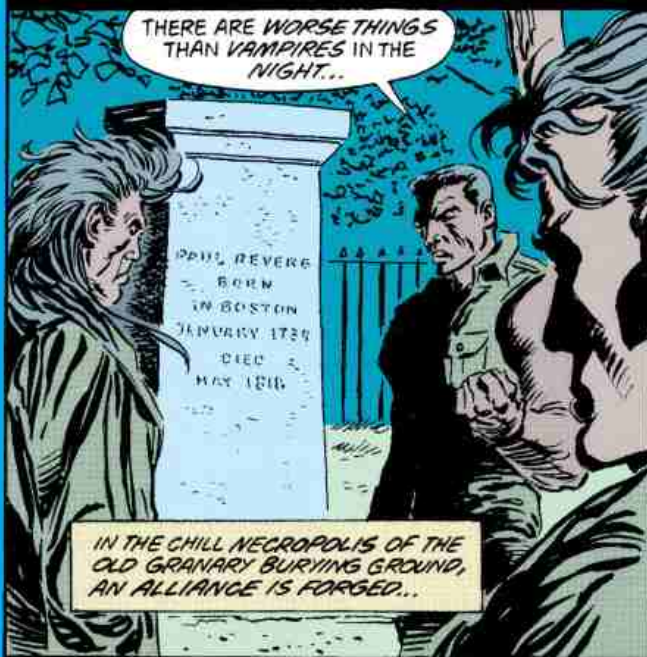
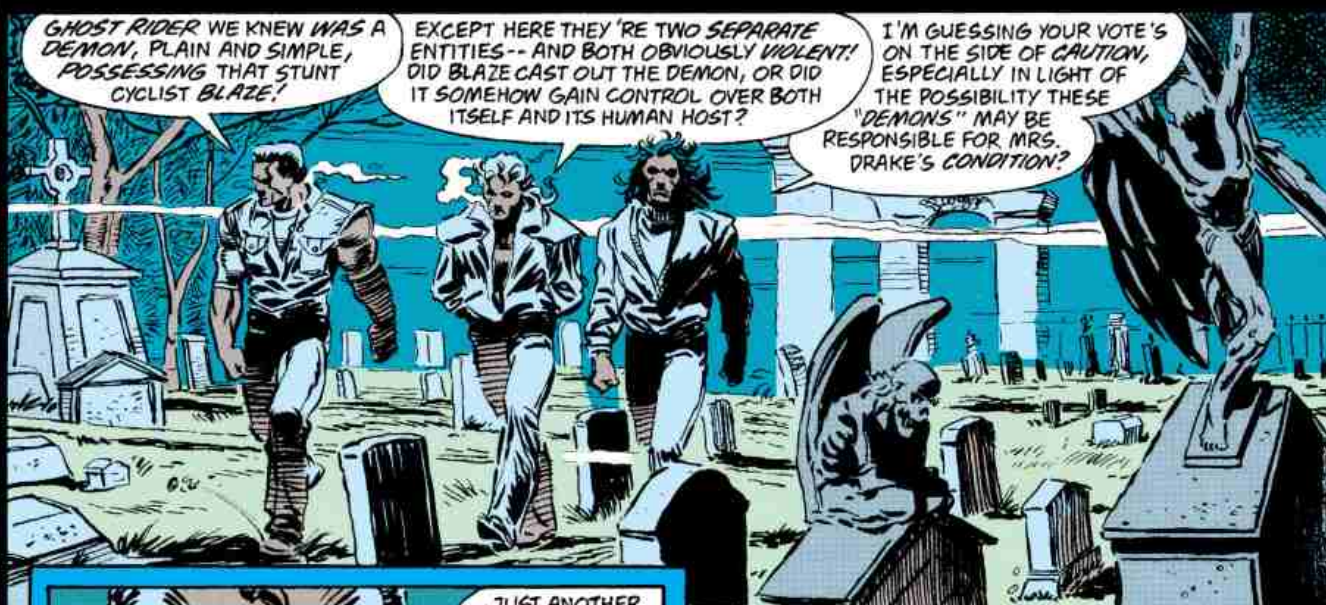
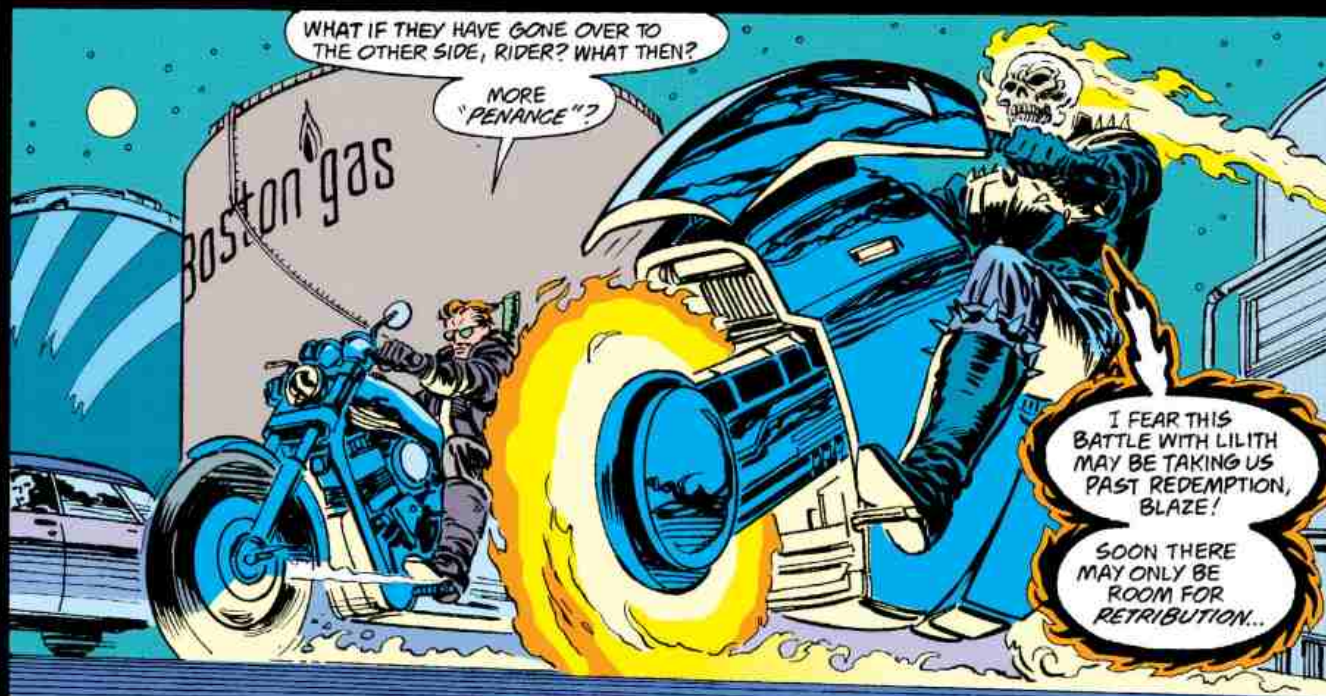
...IT CAN BE UNDONE, YES. BY KILLING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR CAUSING IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!

WHOA WHOA WHOA! I DON'T KNOW WHAT MOVIES YOU BEEN WATCHING, SISTER, BUT REAL LIFE P.I.'S DON'T AS A RULE HIRE OUT TO KILL PEOPLE!

NO, NOT PEOPLE.

DEMONS.



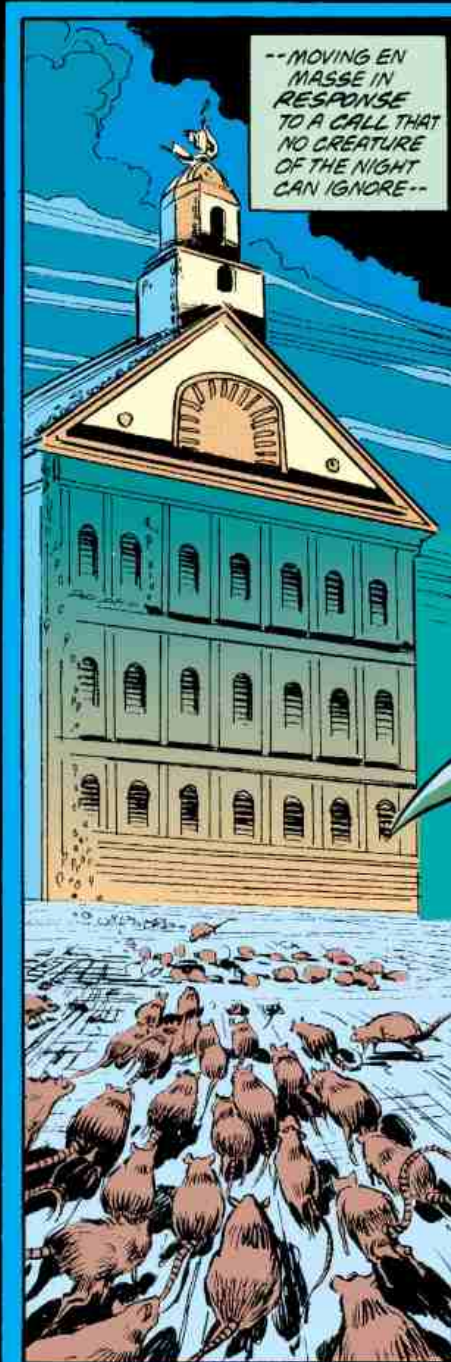




...AND ACROSS THE SLEEPING HUB, A GUERRILLA MILITIA BEGINS THE GRIM JOB OF ARMING ITSELF.



VERMIN HALT THEIR FEASTING ON THE REFUSE LEFT BY QUINCY MARKET'S DAYTIME HORDES--



--MOVING EN MASSE IN RESPONSE TO A CALL THAT NO CREATURE OF THE NIGHT CAN IGNORE--



--A COMMAND THIS CREATURE OF THE NIGHT COULD NO LONGER RESIST GIVING.

DEEP WITHIN, INHUMAN APPETITES FUEL EXTRA-ORDINARY ABILITIES.

HIS BODY MISTING, INCORPOREAL, HANNIBAL KING PRAYS TO ANYONE WHO'LL LISTEN THAT HIS SOUL ALSO NOT MELT AWAY...



"M.I.T. MEDIA LAB? WHAT YOU GOT COOKIN' HERE, FRANK?"

JUST MY RECIPE--
SILICON'S THE CHEF!

RUNNING
NANOTECHNOLOGY
SIMULATION SERIES
TREBLE SIX-

"SILICON?"

YOU LIVE WITH SILLY
NICKNAMES WHEN YOU'RE
A COMPUTER TECHNICIAN
AND YOUR LAST NAME'S
"VALLE".

I JUST PUT IT
TOGETHER--
IT'S MR. DRAKE'S
DESIGN!

"ENGINES OF CREATION,"
HANNIBAL--MICRO-MACHINES
SO SMALL THEY WORK AT A CELLULAR
LEVEL TO MOVE ATOMS, RESHAPE MATTER!

SOME OF IT'S ON
LOAN FROM TONY STARK--
I KEEP IN TOUCH FROM
BACK WHEN I WAS IN
HIS TAX BRACKET!

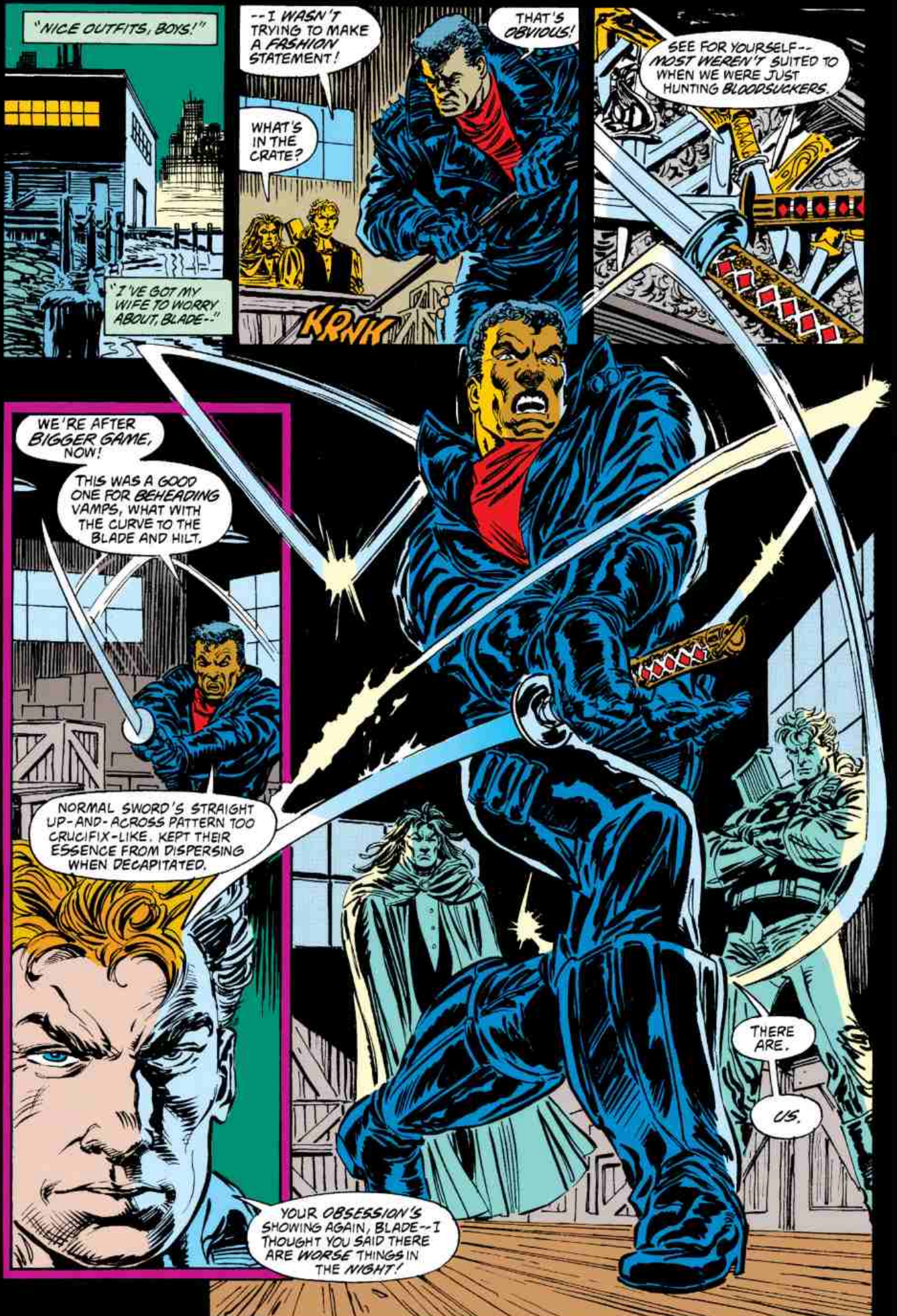
MOSTLY IT WAS A HOBBY, BUT NOW
... I'VE ATTUNED THE NANOTECH
MOTORS TO REACT TO OCCULT
ENERGIES. SORT OF 'NECROTECH'.

LINDA'S ALL
SET, READY
TO TURN SOME
HEADS!

"LINDA"?

LITTLE NICKNAME
FOR THE DELIVERY
SYSTEM. LIKE IN
"BLAIR"--

--YOU KNOW,
"THE EXORCIST!"



"NICE OUTFITS, BOYS!"

-- I WASN'T TRYING TO MAKE A FASHION STATEMENT!

THAT'S OBVIOUS!

WHAT'S IN THE CRATE?

"I'VE GOT MY WIFE TO WORRY ABOUT, BLADE--"

SEE FOR YOURSELF-- MOST WEREN'T SUITED TO WHEN WE WERE JUST HUNTING BLOODSUCKERS.

KRINK

WE'RE AFTER BIGGER GAME, NOW!

THIS WAS A GOOD ONE FOR BEHEADING VAMPS, WHAT WITH THE CURVE TO THE BLADE AND HILT.

NORMAL SWORD'S STRAIGHT UP- AND- ACROSS PATTERN TOO CRUCIFIX-LIKE. KEPT THEIR ESSENCE FROM DISPERSING WHEN DECAPITATED.

THERE ARE.

US.

YOUR OBSESSION'S SHOWING AGAIN, BLADE-- I THOUGHT YOU SAID THERE ARE WORSE THINGS IN THE NIGHT!



"WHAT HAPPENED TO THE AQUARIUM? WHAT AM I DOING IN A HOSPITAL?"

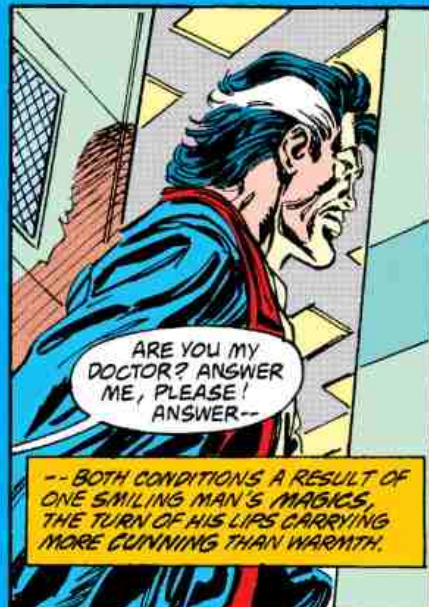


WHERE'S MY HUSBAND?



A NECESSARY MANIPULATION, MARLENE MCKENNA-
DRAKE'S CATALEPSY PASSES AS QUICKLY AS IT
CAME ON--

ARE YOU MY
DOCTOR? ANSWER
ME, PLEASE!
ANSWER--



-- BOTH CONDITIONS A RESULT OF
ONE SMILING MAN'S MAGIC,
THE TURN OF HIS LIPS CARRYING
MORE CUNNING THAN WARMTH.



THINK
THEY'LL
TAKE THE
BAIT?

IF THEY'RE WHAT
SHE SAYS, THEY'LL
BE AFTER HER--IF
THEY'RE AFTER
HER, THEY'LL HAVE
TRACKED HER TO
BORDERLINE.

AND FROM
THERE TO HERE.
ANYONE GOT ENOUGH
FAITH TO THINK
A CHURCH IS REALLY
GOING TO GIVE US
AN EDGE?

CAN'T
HURT.

NEITHER CAN STAYING
IN TOUCH WITH EACH
OTHER ON THESE
THINGS!



ANYONE
GOING TO BACK
OUT, NOW'S
THE TIME...

BACKING OUT'S
NEVER BEEN AN
OPTION, FRANKY.



OCCULT'S HAD US
BY THE SHORT HAIRS
SINCE DAY ONE--
ONLY THING NOW IS TO
SEE IT DON'T GET HOLD
OF NO ONE ELSE!

THEY HAVE EYES, BUT
THEY CANNOT SEE
ME-- THANKS TO
YOU, MOMMA
DEAREST!



THIS IS
GONNA BE
GOOD...

SEE ANYTHING?

MY EYES SEEK OUT ONLY--

YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW-- VENGENCE, VENGENCE, VENGENCE!

OKAY, THEN... OKAY, GO, HANNIBAL, GO!

THE BRITISH ARE COMING, THE BRITISH ARE HERE!

FVKKRSSH

I GOT THEM-- LET'S DO IT!

ONE IF BY LAND...

THAT FLARE--!

FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

DIVERSION, GHOST RIDER--





KING!?
WHAT'S GOTTEN
INTO YOU
THREE?!

GET OFF THE THROTTLE,
MAN, BEFORE YOU GET
US BOTH KILLED!

I'M A LITTLE BEYOND
THAT DEATH THING NOW,
JOHNNY BOY...

... GUESS THAT
JUST LEAVES
YOU, HUH?



VRRRM



YOUR FACADE IS STRIPPED AWAY, HUMAN--

CLINK

GLANK



-- YOUR TRUE SELF REVEALED!



SHKRAAP



GAAK



NOW SEE YOURSELF FOR WHAT YOU REALLY ARE--



-- THROUGH THE EYES OF THE PENANCE--

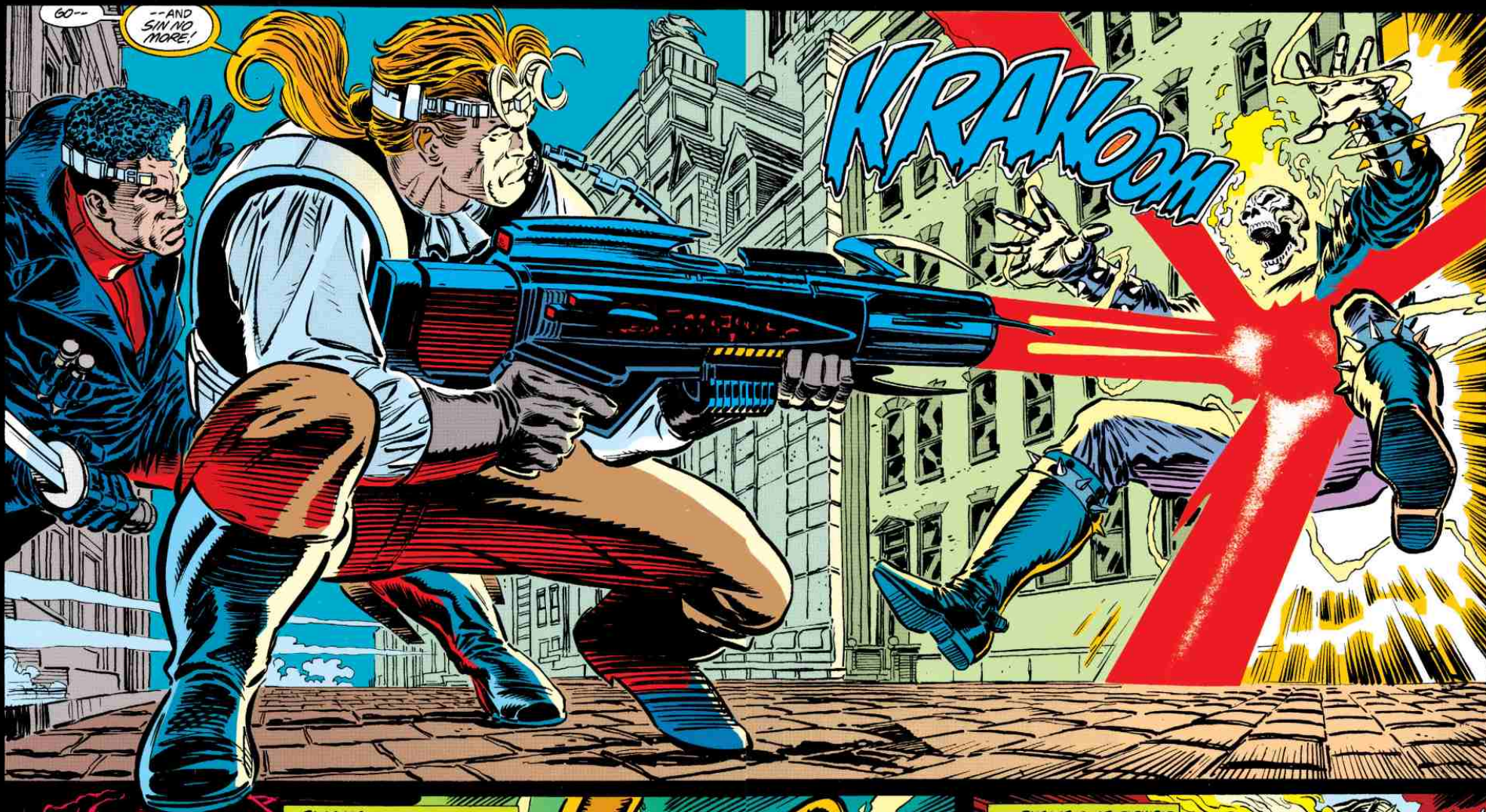
THWKK



CATCH, BLADE!

YOU WANT TO TALK PENANCE, RIDER, FINE! I GOT YOUR ABSOLUTION FOR YOU RIGHT HERE!

ARRR

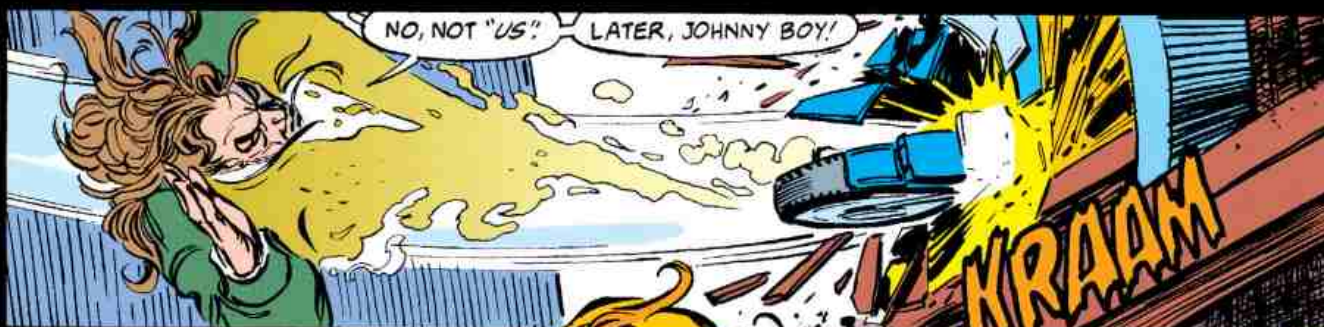


PLASMA CHARGES ACT AS A SUSPENSION MEDIUM, CARRYING NEGROTECH MOTORS TO THEIR TARGET--

--MICROSCOPIC ENGINES KICKING INTO GEAR TO ALTER THE ATOMIC STRUCTURE OF PRETERNATURAL BONE--

--FUSING ONCE-FLEXIBLE JOINTS WITH PRISON-LIKE RIGIDITY.

CAN'T--
MOVE--







BREAK-- BREAK THE CURSE,
OR WHATEVER... FOR THE
CLIENT AND MARLENE!

KILL THEM,
YES, EVEN ONE
WILL BREAK THE
NINE! THEN THE
WAY IS CLEAR
FOR MOMMA TO
MAKE HER MARK!



THERE'S THAT SAME
STENCH OF THE OCCULT
AS THE LOOKER HAD
IN THE OFFICE--

-- BUT IT AIN'T COMING
OFF THE BOOKENDS
HERE!



IT SHOULD, THOUGH,
IF THEY'RE THE
CAUSE!

--TURN SOME
HEADS!

"I.F."

THERE,
FRANKY,
YOU AND
LINDA--

KRAKOOOM



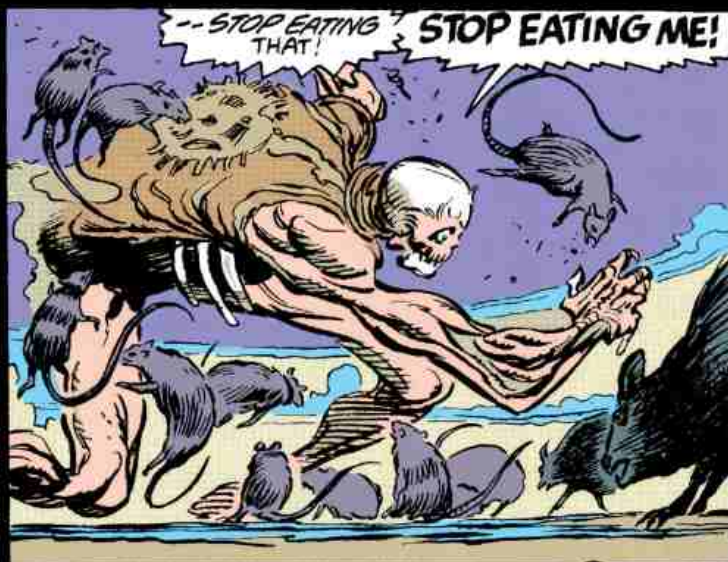
NO NEED...

"...IT'S MINE!"



AIEEEG!

STOP
THAT, YOU
LITTLE--



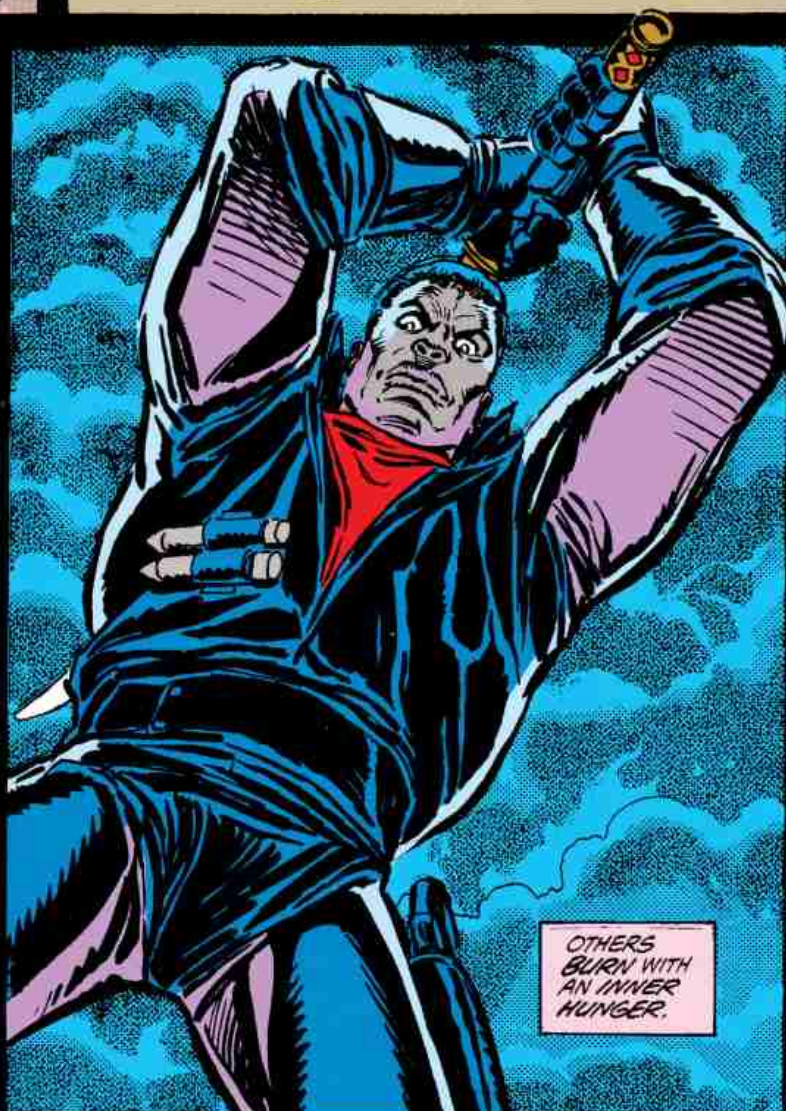
-- STOP EATING
THAT!

STOP EATING ME!

THE RATS HAVE BEEN COMPELLED
BY AN OUTSIDE FORCE TO FEED.



MOMMY...



OTHERS
BURN WITH
AN INNER
HUNGER.



ADMIT IT, STRANGE--
YOU LONG FOR THE CHANCE
TO MATCH YOUR SORCERY
AGAINST MINE!

I ADMIT NOTHING,
LILITH... SAVE THAT SUCH
HEADSTRONG ACTION WOULD
SERVE ONLY TO FURTHER
YOUR ENDS!

A DIRECT COLLISION
OF POWER SUCH AS OURS
WOULD WEAKEN THE DIMENSIONAL
WALLS EVEN FURTHER--AND ALLOW
YOU TO SUMMON YOUR SCATTERED
CHILDREN OF DAMNATION THAT
MUCH EASIER!

LONG AGO, ORDINARY
MEN FOUGHT FOR JUST CAUSES
ON THE DECK OF THE CONSTITUTION
HERE... AND TODAY, IT WILL
BE ORDINARY MEN WHO COM-
BAT YOUR EVIL ON MY BEHALF.



YOUR MIDDLEMEN
SERVE ME NOW, AS
PILGRIM'S PORTAL
WILL SHOW!



LOOK, LOOK! THE
SKULL OF THE GHOST--



--MEATMARKET?



MY SWEET
LITTLE BOY...

YOU WERE
SAYING?



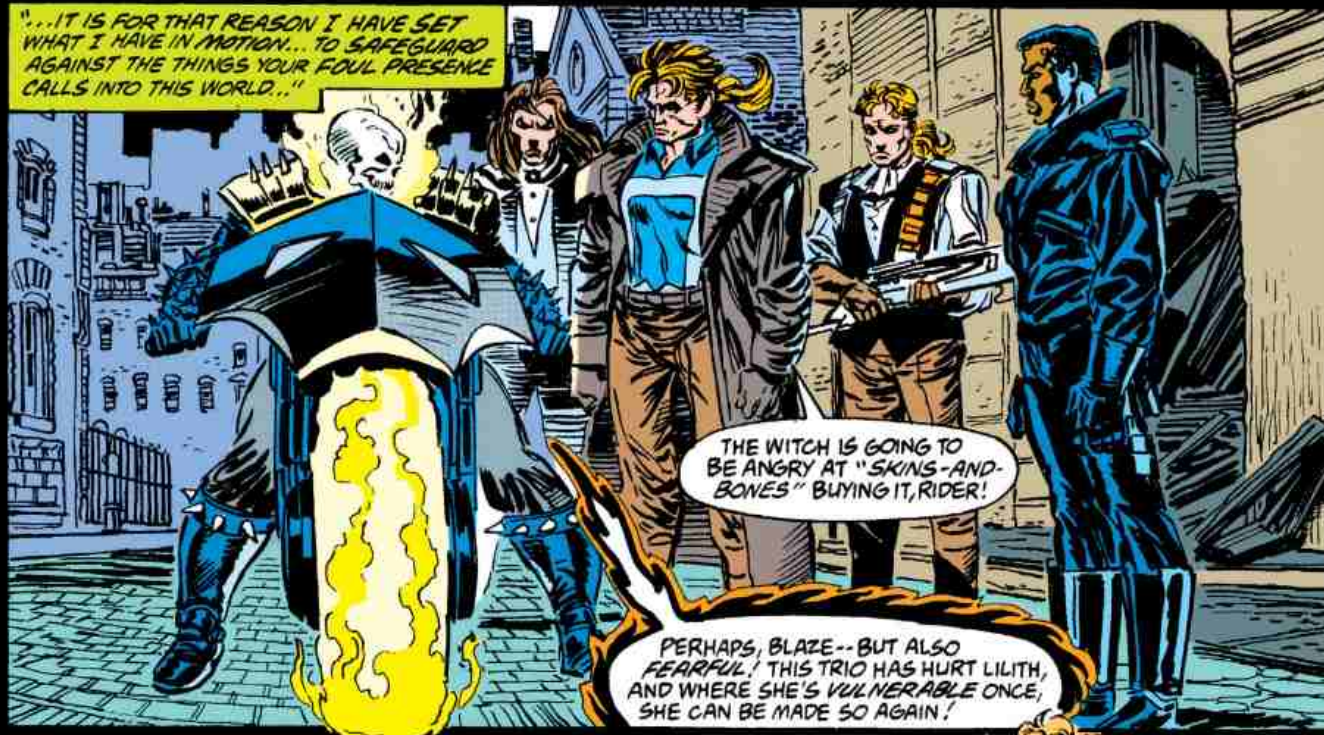
THE SOMNAMBULISM OF
FRANK DRAKE'S WIFE WAS
A BAIT YOU COULDN'T
RESIST USING,
LILITH...
ENJOY
YOUR
CATCH!



THIS IS ONLY
BEGINNING,
SORCERER!

I KNOW...

"...IT IS FOR THAT REASON I HAVE SET
WHAT I HAVE IN MOTION... TO SAFEGUARD
AGAINST THE THINGS YOUR FOUL PRESENCE
CALLS INTO THIS WORLD..."





THE NIGHT'S NO LONGER
SAFE FOR YOUR KIND...

THE MYSTERY OF LILITH COMES
TO ITS CHILLING CONCLUSION IN
GHOST RIDER #3!

-- EVEN AS NIGHTSTALKERS #2 FINDS
HYDRA BUILDING AN ARMY OF VAMPIRE
SUPER SOLDIERS... WITH HANNIBAL KING
AS THEIR PROTOTYPE!

**"REVENANT SEASON" OPENS IN
30 DAYS!**